



*W*hat does the Lord require of you but
to do justice, love kindness, and to
walk humbly with your God ? - Micah 6:8

**A History of Westminster Church
And
Its History of Giving Over 40 Years
2003**



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Editorial Comment:

The History of Westminster as chronologically recorded would be totally lacking without some word of reflection on the love and spirit of the congregation of this church family. Although inadequately expressed, memories include: the making of new friends at Sunday School and after services, supper clubs, book clubs, women's retreats, men's breakfasts, inquirers class, Crop Walks, time spent with one of 50 Stephen Ministers, grounds clean-up days, pancake and church suppers throughout the year, listening to the incomparable chancel choir and brass ensemble, children's choir, Ringers, Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble, **Monica** playing and leading at the same time, New Hope Vacation Church School, Baptismal Services with **Haywood**'s eyes on a little child while he walks the aisle speaking softly his introduction to our church family, **Mary Holderness**'s thread of constant guiding support in all of Haywood's endeavors and every church project and activity, **Paul**'s journeys with our children to near and far away places, **Jim Ketch** and **Jack Walker**'s deep reaching trumpet music, **Betty**'s warm words and caring visits to all of us in sickness and in need of love, concerts, Youths leading us in Sunday Worship, candlelight services, LoveFeasts, Spiritual Enrichment Weekends, serving meals at the Homeless Shelter or Rescue Mission to name just a few. **Westminster has been blessed beyond measure in its mission of giving** from the very outset, with its **one former and three present, selfless** ministers.

Ralph W. Coonrad

September, 2003

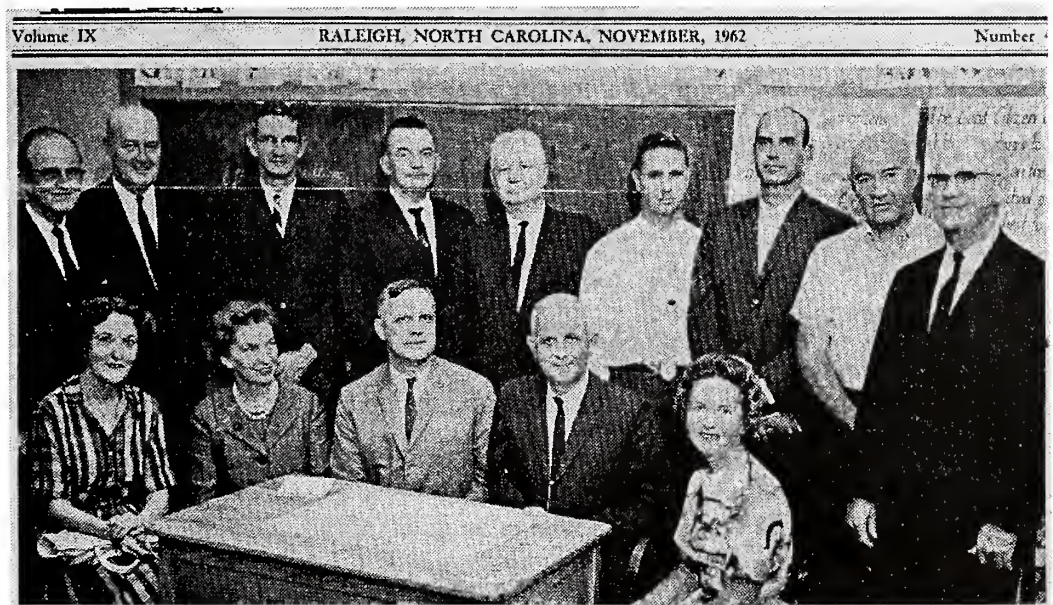
The Church History Committee:

Ralph Coonrad
Bill Cline
Claudia Draffin
Mary Holderness
Haywood Holderness
Martha Uzzle

A Brief History of Westminster Presbyterian Church Durham, NC

The Early Years:

- 1962** Under sponsorship of the Presbyterian Council of Durham and Granville Presbytery, the first **organizational meeting** of Westminster Church, Durham, was held on **September 19, 1962** at the Hope Valley School. A fourteen member steering committee was named with John Knight as chairman, and a twelve member pulpit committee appointed with Dr. Ralph Coonrad, chairman. Members of both committees were mostly from First Presbyterian and Trinity Avenue Presbyterian churches in Durham. The final charter roll members numbered **forty-six families by transfer**, with an additional fourteen sons and daughters of the members by profession of faith.



Steering Committee, Sitting: Mrs. Louise Thomas, Mrs. Russell N. Barringer, Mr. Robert King, Mr. John Knight, Mrs. D. W. Uzzle. Standing: Rev. E. L. Barber, Mr. J. Fleming Wily, Jr., Dr. James C. Petrea, Mr. E. H. Shoaf, Mr. George Elliott, Mr. L. E. Swanson, Dr. Ralph Coonrad, Mr. Finley White, and Rev. E. J. Agsten.

NEW CHURCH TO BE ORGANIZED IN HOPE VALLEY AREA OF DURHAM
The Steering Committee - Formed September 19, 1962

- 1963** On March 28th Charles Williams, pastor of the Mount Olive Presbyterian Church, Mount Olive, N.C. **accepted the congregation's call** to be Westminster's first pastor. Mr. Williams was born in Halifax, N.C., graduated from Davidson College and Cum Laude from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va.



Rev. Charles Williams



The Williams Family - Charles, Mary Katherine, Nancy, Nancy Anne

May 26th The first service was held in Hope Valley School with eighteen member families on the early charter roll.

June 30th The **Installation Service** for Charles Williams was held with **Dr. Donald Shriver** delivering the sermon, and **Dr. Edward J. Agsten** giving the charge to the congregation and minister, on behalf of presbytery.

October 20, 1963 Ordination and installation of **six** members to **the first Session** and **nine** members to **the Diaconate** was accomplished.. One of the **first decisions** made by the Session was to **tithe** an amount of the budget to benevolence and, **welcome all** who wished to worship with us.

First Session: Edwin H. Shoaf Ralph W. Coonrad Robert H. King
 Finley T. White J. Fleming Wily John Knight

First Diaconate:

Alton J. Coppridge	Henry D. Mayfield	E. C. Thompson
William D. Croom	Donald M. Monson	Marvin E. Walker
W. Willis Happer	William W. Shingleton	Dan W. Uzzle



A first service in the HopeValley School auditorium

1964,1965 There was close association during this period by members of the session's worship committee with **Dr. James A. Jones**, President of Union Theological Seminary, **Dr. Kelsey Regen**, minister of First Presbyterian Church in Durham, **Dr. William Bennettt**, minister of Trinity Presbyterian in Durham, and **Dr. James A. Fogartie** of Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte. All had offered assistance or visited to preach.

J.C. Petrea was named superintendent of the Church School. The organizational meeting of the **Women of the Church** was held March 9, 1964 with **Mrs. Gordon Tuggle**, President, **Mrs. Helen Coppridge**, Historian. Mary Martha Uzzle and Stephen Barringer were the first children to be baptized in Westminster Church.

February, 1965 A new relationship, commitment, and partial support of **Rev. and Mrs. Jule C. Spach**, missionaries to Brazil under the Board of Foreign Missions, was accepted on the part of Westminster Church.

May, 1965 Lots for a building site were given to the church by **Mrs. C.T. Council, Sr.**, a friend of the church, with adjacent lots added later by purchase from **Carol Council Smith** for a sum of \$35,000 (1986).The church has been **self-sustaining** from the outset.

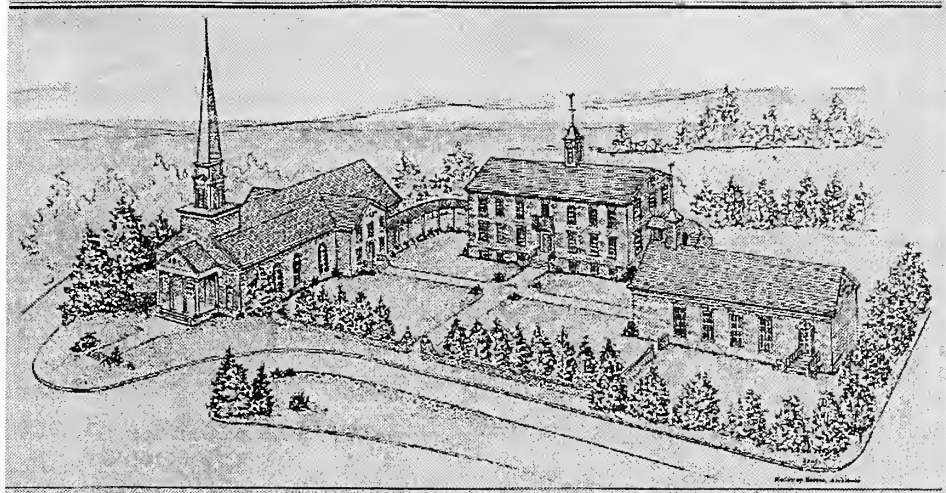
A capital funds campaign was initiated February 14th for \$100,000 to begin construction of an **Educational Building and Fellowship hall**. **Dan W. Uzzle** was appointed chairman of the building committee, below.



Members of the building committee - Back row: Dick Borie, Dan Uzzle, Charles Williams; front row: Charlie Nye, Fleming Wily, Betsy Robb



Planning Committee at the future church site of 3.12 acres: Charles Nye, Fleming Wily, Gordon Tuggle, Helen Croom, John Knight, Norma Barringer, Henry Knight and Charles Williams



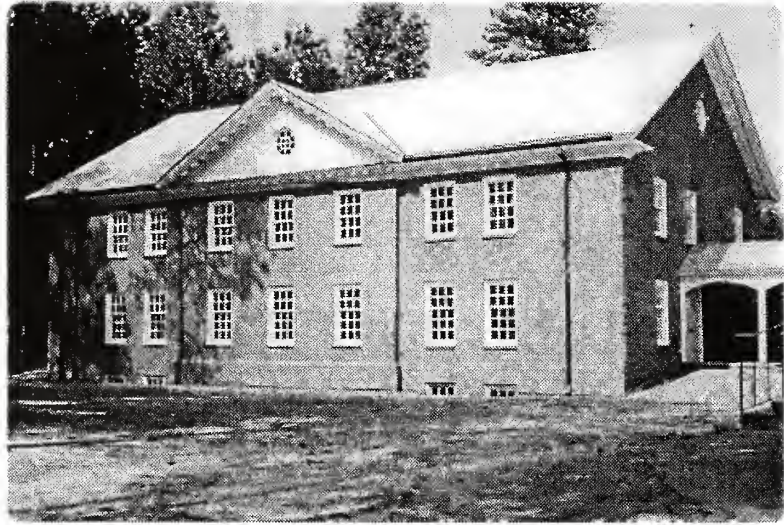
1966 March The women of the church initiated publication of a three times yearly **church news letter** called “**Westminster Chimes**”.



Construction on the Fellowship Hall in 1966



Completed in 1967



The Education Building, later enlarged to be the Mission Center

Both the **Fellowship Hall and Education Building** were completed in **June, 1967**

- 1967 June 25** The four year anniversary of the **founding of Westminster Presbyterian Church** was celebrated with our first service in the **new Fellowship Hall**, and praise was expressed with gratitude for **four years** of services held in Hope Valley School, and church suppers at the Westminster Student Center of Duke University
- 1967 On Nov 26th** **Dr. James B. Cleland**, Dean of the Chapel at Duke University, delivered the sermon at a **Service of Dedication** for the new Fellowship Hall and Education Building.



Charles Williams and Dean Cleland at the Dedication Service



The first service in the new Fellowship Hall

August The first **Cub Scout** troop was organized by **Mrs. Martha Uzzle** with eight cubs, ages 7-12. A **Boy Scout** troop was organized by the church a few months later and has continued to flourish through the years under the leadership of **Chip Reinhardt**.

During the sixties and early years of Westminster, the country, the South in particular, and Durham were in **racial turmoil** and undulating **crisis situations** with **desegregation**. While many of the churches in Durham were in controversy over racial membership decisions, a **1963 Westminster Session** record reads: "**Anyone coming to this church to worship shall be welcome and shall be seated without reference to race**".

Westminster built on property **directly** across the street from **Markham Missionary Baptist Church**, a very active black church, with whom we have had a **close relationship** from the outset. There have been choir, preaching and visitor exchanges, and during the early eighties an arranged utilization of Westminster during their building program for a new sanctuary.

1968 We became more closely involved with the **Duke Student Interracial Ministry** and its support.

A strongly worded directive from the **General Assembly** urged Sessions and Pastors to "rid their congregations and communities of hatred and violence".

Johan Bonk and his family had given the use of their home on Bristol Road to the church rent free for three years and sold it to the church for \$32,000.

During the latter part of the '60's, **outreach projects** by the church included: visits and support for the development of an **Edgemont Community Center**, **Barium Springs Orphanage**, the **Presbyterian Retirement Home** in High Point, plans for a **Westminster Kindergarten**, and efforts by the session to develop with other local churches some direct methods of dealing with regional **alcoholism**, **poverty** and **race relations**.

Mission outreach included the partial support of **Mr. and Mrs. Wendy Ligon**, missionaries to Indonesia.

Operating expenses of the church totaled \$13,000, benevolences \$2,600, **pledges** \$26,000, and the minister's salary was increased from \$7,000 to \$8,000 and by 1969 to \$10,000.

Suffering and deaths from the **Vietnam War** began to end its ripple effect in the lives of our church family.

Mrs. C.T. Council, Sr., who was interested our music program, forgave the church's **property debt** toward the purchase of **our first organ**.

September Women of the Church hosted the annual district meeting with 120 women attending four workshops on Personal Faith and Family Life, Community Action, Ecumenical Missions, and Leadership.

1969 September Westminster Kindergarten opened under the direction of **Mrs. Ethel Fishbaugh**, with **Mrs. Carol Page** and **Mr. Fishbaugh** as assistants. An enrollment of **66** in 1969, increased to **134** by 1971. The school served a two-fold purpose: utilization of empty buildings during the week, and a service to the community for education in a Christian background and atmosphere.

1969 - 1970 The Hoover Road Day Care Center was taken on as a **Women Of The Church project** and limited to 24 children.

1971 The total **church operating budget** increased from \$18,956 in 1964 to \$52,209 in 1971. **Benevolences** increased from \$1,855 to \$6,044 during the same period, and membership from **149 to 356**. **Sunday Church School** enrollment increased from **131 to 233** during those years.

1972 WPC purchased the **Westminster Kindergarten** from Mrs. Fishbaugh (for \$5,000) which has subsequently been operated by Mrs. Carol Van Hise.

From 1963, Trustees of Westminster Presbyterian Church during the founding years were: J. Fleming Wily, John Knight and Charles Nye.

In the Summer of 1972, Charles Williams accepted a call to a church in **Bristol, Tennessee**, and after several years was subsequently called to the First Presbyterian Church in **Burlington, N.C.** **Tim Kimrey**, a member of Westminster, and the first minister to be ordained in our church, served as **interim pastor** and Session Moderator until December, 1973.

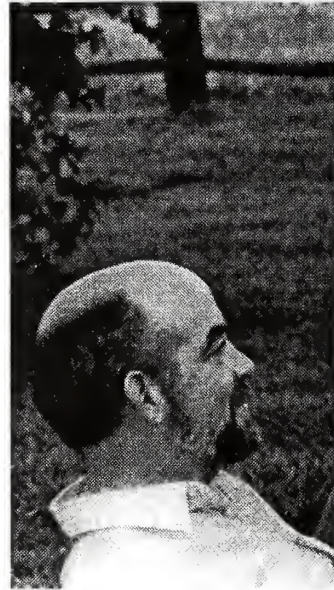
1973 A Scholarship Fund was established by the congregation to provide for three 3 year old children from **disadvantaged families** to attend the Church's **Kindergarten School**, and through gradual enrollment until the number reached 10% of total students.

1974 In January, Haywood Holderness was called from **Grace Presbyterian Church in Mobile, Alabama**, and was installed as pastor. Haywood was a graduate of the University of North Carolina, attended the Wharton School in Philadelphia, and was a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va.

At this point in the church's history, there were **280 members** and the operating budget was **\$51,000**

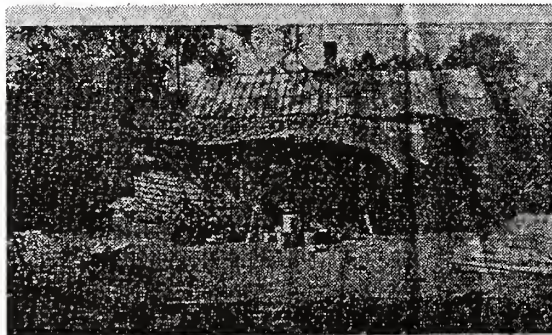


Haywood, Penn, Mary and Dail Holderness



Haywood

1974 A number of **Westminster men** led people from several other churches in building a **new home** for an elderly lady, Mrs. Satterfield, in East Durham to replace one that was time-rotted out and was no longer inhabitable.



Time-Rotted Home On Carr Road
Kerosene Lamps Light Tumbledown Building At Night



New Two-Bedroom Dwelling

The new Satterfield Home

After considerable discussion the **Session** decided to serve **wine** along with **grape juice** for communion, for those with a preference.

1975 **Carol Van Hise** was named director of **Westminster Kindergarten**. The **Pre-School** was fully certified with operation at capacity of **150 children**.

The church wrote its own **Sunday School curriculum**. The first year was based on **Old Testament** stories and then followed the next year with stories from the **New Testament**.

Men and women of the church built the **Calhoon Log Cabin** named in honor of **Forest Calhoon** who led the project. Forest fell from the roof during construction and sustained a **spine fracture**, but recovered and three months later **was found on** the roof helping to complete the cabin.



The Calhoon Cabin

Orange Presbytery had a special emphasis on **Hunger** and raised enough money to build a health and nutrition center in **Mjubi Mai, Zaire**. **Westminster**, under leadership of **Do Cooper**, responded by raising over **\$15,000** which made us one of the **largest Presbytery donors per capita**.



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 3639 CHAPEL HILL ROAD, DURHAM, N.C.
HAYWOOD D. HOLDERNESS, MINISTER

Haywood greeting our church family

Durham Congregations in Action was formed out of the Center City Church Council in 1976. Since then, Westminster has furnished important **leadership, financial support, and volunteers** for DCIA. Westminster was a leading congregation in Durham in raising funds to build the **Urban Ministries Center** which opened **October, 1985**. Westminster was the leading congregation in town raising funds to buy the **Community Shelter for Hope** opened by the Durham Presbyterian Council.

- 1976** Westminster adopted her **first refugee family of 13 Vietnamese people**, and under the leadership of **Sue Wilson** helped them get settled in Durham. They were all successfully assimilated, and all of the **children eventually finished college in this country**.



Receive Sessoms Award

C.E. Boulware, Executive Sec. of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, and Haywood, accepting for Congregations in Action, received the awards from Joe Fish, Chairman of the Durham Human Relations Commission, for efforts at providing services in Durham for disadvantaged people where none existed.

- 1977** Haywood and the church staff provided office equipment and moral support for printing "Eco-Tips", a monthly environmental news letter written by Jean Eaves who established the Durham Energy Information Office, which eventually **became Sun Shares**, Durham's award winning **first** energy conservation and **recycling** organization.
- 1978** A number of **Westminster men** along with some others from Pilgrim UCC and the Mennonite Fellowship **built a new home** for a needy, elderly couple in East Durham.

- 1979** Christmas Eve, **Steve and Carolyn Phelps** and **Sandra Lutz** led us in having the **first Moravian style Lovefeast**.



Servers for a Lovefeast - (1998)

Haywood served as **President of Durham Congregations in Action** in **1979** and again in **1980**

- 1980** **Westminster** hired a part time **Director of Christian Education, Angie George**.
- 1981** The church bought its **first computer** (Apple II).
- 1982** Beginning **December 19, 1982** the church began to have her annual **Christmas Lovefeast** on an **Advent Sunday** and used Westminster **young people as servers** and the **N.C. Boys Choir** for musical leadership. Equipment for the Lovefeast was borrowed from Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church until 1986 when **Carolyn** and **Steve Phelps** donated baskets, **Karen Johnson** made all of the linens, and **Bill Leaming** made all of the candle and mug trays.
- Westminster led the effort** for raising **\$525,000** with other churches in Durham to build a **new Urban Ministries Center** to centralize and better minister to the destitute, homeless and hungry people in Durham.
- Union of the Northern and Southern Presbyterian churches** took place.
- 1983** **Sue McCaughan** became our full time Director of Christian Education



Sue McCaughan - and Ralph

1984 January The **Junior Hi's** raised **\$600** as a project for the **Durham Ministries Center Building Fund**

We witnessed the beginning of our **youth group** attending the **Montreat Youth Conference** each summer.

Westminster began regularly **funding** Durham Congregations in Action's program, **Meals on Wheels**, and completed a large portion of **Durham Urban Ministries building fund**.

The **Session** voted to support **Young Life** in Durham.

Westminster's **operating budget** was **\$136,000**.

December 30th The **congregation** voted **approval for incorporation** of the church.

After extended study, a decision was made to build a **Sanctuary** rather than enlarge the existing Fellowship Hall. **Congregational approval** was **overwhelming** and location of the building would follow the original architectural plan for the church campus.

Haywood was recognized for serving ten years as **Chairman of Presbytery's Candidate's Committee**.

The **Session** restated the **mission of the church** as follows:

In response to God's Love, we the members of Westminster Presbyterian Church do proclaim and demonstrate the gospel of Jesus Christ within our congregation, throughout the community, and to the

world, as disciples in the reformed tradition, and led by the Holy Spirit we manifest our faith through:

- corporate worship
- sustaining nurture
- mission outreach
- responsible stewardship
- Christian Education

Standing Committees for the year included: **Witness, Planning, Music, Service, Christian Education, Campaign, Nominating and Outreach**

Cost of the Sanctuary was accepted at **\$1,075,000**

1985 Westminster's continuing outreach ministry included: the Westminster Kindergarten, World Missions, Seminary Candidate Support, the Howard Williams Funding, Durham Congregations In Action, The Soup Kitchen, Meals on Wheels, Blood Donation Program, Host Homes, Emergency Energy Fund, Winterization Projects, Durham Presbyterian Council, Senior Citizens Ministry, Christmas Families in Need, Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous, Hospice and Ostomy support groups.

The church partially supported two missionary families, the **Rev. Tim Carriker** (Brazil) and **Dr. Donald Wehmeyer** (Mexico).

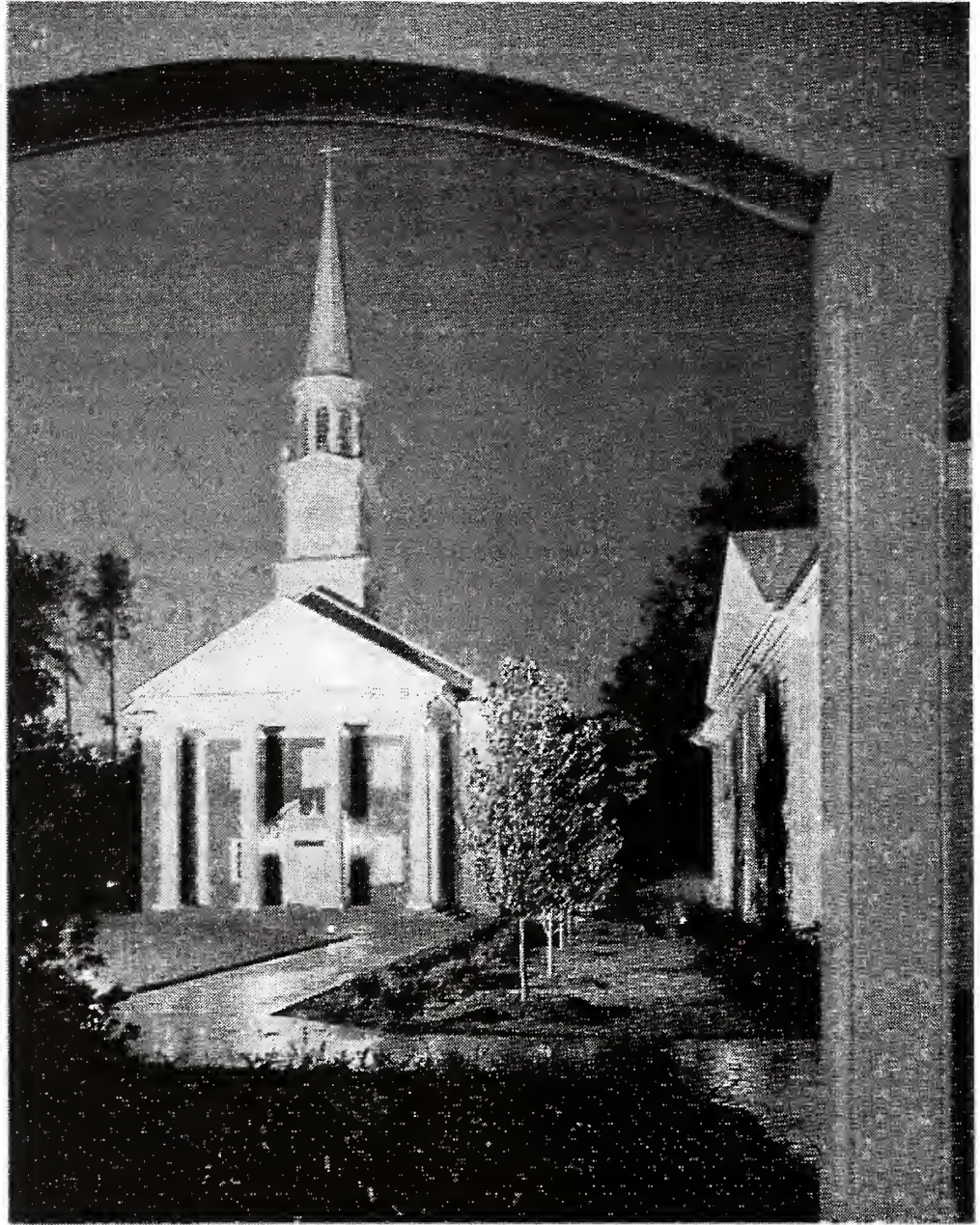
Many of our church members answered a call from the **American Red Cross** for blood donations which followed a morning worship service



donor Evelyn Coonrad

1986 The congregation voted to build a **Sanctuary** at a total cost of **\$1.2 M.** \$750,00 was secured in pledges under the leadership of **Ralph McCaughan**. Ground was broken in the **summer of 1986** and the building

was dedicated on August 30, 1987. Bo Harris chaired the Building Committee and Downey Construction Co. was the builder.



The Sanctuary

1987 Session voted **unanimous approval** of General Assembly's paper and resolution to support the view of life and abortion as presented in the paper "**The Nature and Value of Human Life.**"

The Session established a **policy** for use of the **church buildings** by **outside organizations** and groups, and also a **policy** for the appointment of **Kindergarten Board members**.

The **church budget** was increased to \$264,358 for the year.

The church decided to hire a **full time secretary** and sexton for a 40 hour week. **Margaret Andrews**, who was our **part time secretary**, resigned and **Gloria Mizzell** was hired for full time and to give Haywood all the help he needed.

Westminster undertook partial support of **Murray Richmond** as a theology student intern.



Haywood accepts all of us equally as God's Children

October The church established the **Westminster Scholarship Fund** to help defray **college expenses** for needy and deserving Westminster members and their families.

Policies were restated for **Scout** and **Cub troops** chartered to Westminster.

After much research, **Marvin and Becky Walker**, **Sally Cline**, **Nancy Knight** and **Velma Silver** led us in building a **Memorial Garden** immediately South of the education building to be used as a resting place for cremains, as well as a lovely outdoor site for **meditation** and **weddings**. Our first guest in the garden was **Edna Cooper**.

1988 The Session decided to offer **intinction mode of communion** at half of our services. Later it was decided that intinction would be used at all early services, and at both services during the summer months.

In February, **Haywood, Sue McCaughan, Don Heagren and Gene Brannon** spent two weeks being trained to become leaders for the **Stephen Ministry Program**. In the fall of 1988 they started our first training class, out of which **35 people** were commissioned as Stephen Ministers in February 1989.

On June 26th, 1988, Westminster celebrated it's **25th Anniversary** with a special service with **Charles Williams**, our first pastor, as guest preacher, and **Phyllis Kort** who was our first candidate in the Gospel Ministry as leaders along with **Haywood Holderness**.

1989 Under the leadership of **Nancy Proia**, Westminster adopted a **Polish refugee family of five**. By the end of year 1990 they were self supporting and independent.

1990 On the Sunday after Labor Day, the Presbytery of New Hope installed **Graham Patterson as our first Associate Pastor**, and we had our **first annual Pig Pickin'**. It was also on that Sunday that we used Graham Patterson as our excuse to ask everyone to **begin wearing name tags**.



Graham and Claudia Patterson

1991 Our first **Women's Beach Retreat** was led by **Hazel Thornton**

Kay Bailey created our **hand bell choir** which included both **children and adults**.



Kay and the children

Our first **Mexican Mission** team, consisting of **22** teenagers and adults, spent two weeks in the Yucatan Peninsula under supervision of our missionary, **Don Wehmeyer**.

In December, the **General Assembly's paper on human sexuality** was published and our session appointed a task force, leading to an open discussion meeting for interested church members.

We had our first **first home grown musical** at the now annual Pig-Pickin' or "**Celebration Sunday**". "**Paul and Company**" was presented.

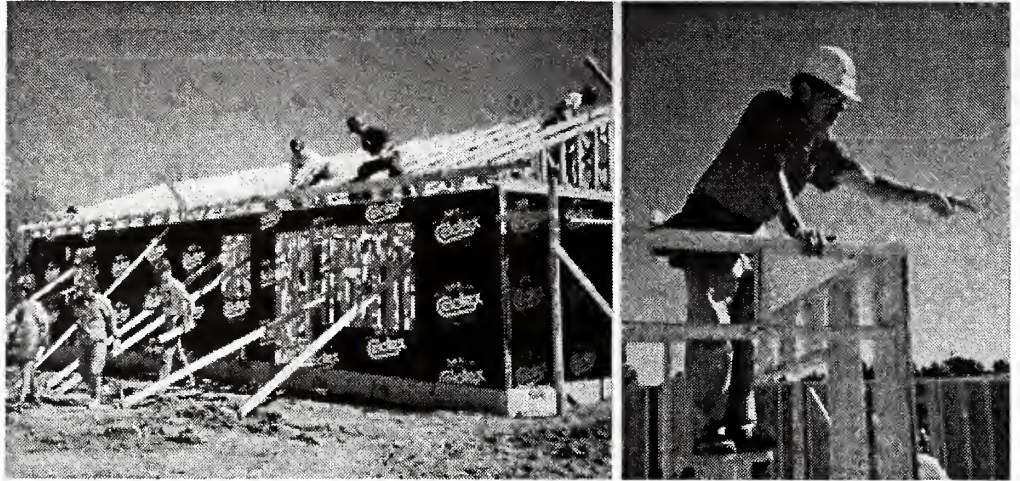
Jack and Carol Walker led us in the **renovation of the Dodie Mathews home**.

The Phoenix House, a transitional home for formerly homeless men, was opened with a **great deal of leadership from this congregation**.

Haywood was honored as the first recipient of the **Elna B. Spaulding Community Service Award**. In addition to helping improve human relations in Durham, the award listed his effective leadership with the **United Negro College fund, United Way Planning Services Board, United Way Campaign** among the clergy group, his **church, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, North Carolina Boy's Choir, YWCA, and the Foundation for Better Health**, among countless others.

1992 **Haywood** was given a **summer sabbatical** and Ann Hoch and Mark and Katherine Achtemeier took over as interim pastors.

We built our **first Habitat House** which involved **130** of us.



Pete Jones, who has helped build 50 Habitat Houses, directs the Westminster crew

Heidi Warburton became the recipient of a **new heart**.

20 adults and youths went on our **first Appalachian Service Project**.
Also, during the summer we introduced the **new Presbyterian Hymnal**.

Nancy Proia completed the two year project of **resettling the Jakuboskis, a Polish family of 5**, in our community.

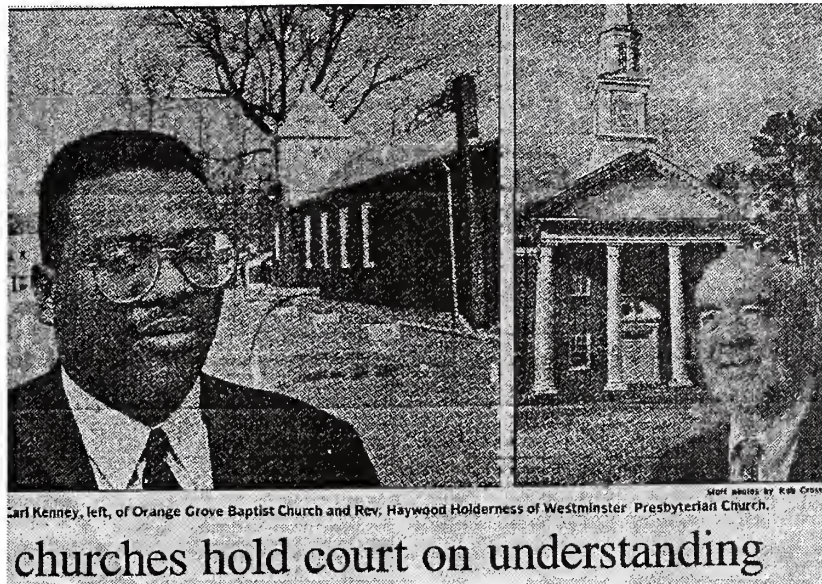


Nancy Proia and the Westminster choir

September The church began to offer an **8:45 and 11 AM Service**.

We established our sister church relationship with **Orange Grove Missionary Baptist Church**. A workshop on race relations was held

and a close relationship developed between the two churches – **one black – one white. We exchanged choirs, shared meals, and even built a Habitat House together for a family in need.**



We hosted the first **community Baccalaureate** service for area public school graduates, with the support of our four neighboring congregations.

Celebration Sunday featured the musical “**100% Chance of Rain**”.

A “**Haywood Roast**” was organized for the **benefit of Genesis Home**. (over **\$30,000** was raised for that transitional home for families.).

1993 Robertson Madill organized the **Westminster Brass Ensemble**.

We had our first **Diversity Workshop** and our **first Mexican Fiesta**.

At the September **Celebration** we acknowledged **Westminster’s 30th Birthday** and had many of our charter members return for the Picnic and presentation of “**Cool in the Furnace**”.

In October **Bill Graham resigned** as music director to take a similar job at Asbury Methodist Church. **Kay Bailey** was appointed **interim Music Director**.

Don North and the **Board of Deacons** organized our **Shepherding Program**.



Helping out the homeless

Jordan High Ambassador, Scott Maxwell presents a check to help the Durham Community Shelter and Genesis House. (Scott Maxwell, Nancye Bryan, Haywood)

1994 January Westminster honored Haywood's 20 years at Westminster by having a special offering for Habitat for Humanity and on that Sunday nearly \$25,000 was given.

Twelve Westminster members became one of the first trained AIDS Care Teams in Durham.

On August 28th, **Monica Umsteadt Rossman** was installed as our first full-time Minister of Music. She leads, sings, plays and writes music.



Monica, directing, singing, playing, doing it all

We had our first summer **mission trip** to the **District of Columbia**.

Westminster officers began publicizing our critical **need for more space for youth, education, music, fellowship and outreach**.

A **classroom trailer** was purchased, installed **near the back parking lot**.

On **October 26th** we had a very special birthday party to celebrate the first **100 years of Leroy Cooper**.

At the 1994 **Celebration** we saw perhaps our most ambitious musical, "**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**".

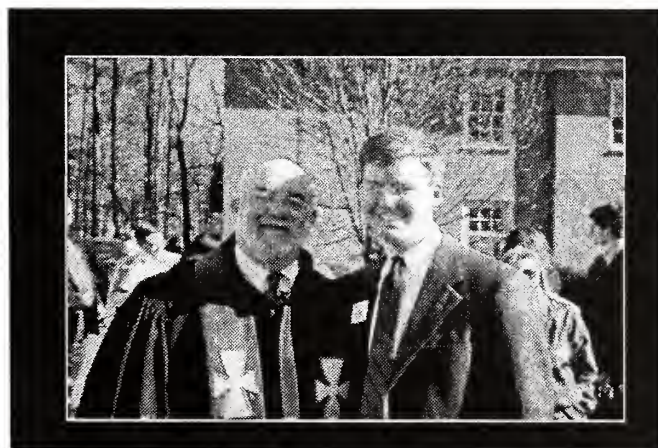
More than **\$500,000 in pledges** was made for the **1995 budget**.

1995 We celebrated our **Pre-School Director's 25th** year with us and much of the year was focused on **Carol Van Hise's fine and faithful ministry** at Westminster.



Carol Van Hise - every Kindergartner needs one

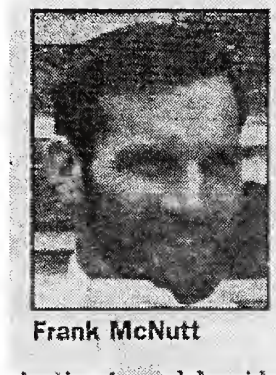
Ed Lilly spent 6 months as our **Medical Missionary to Kenya**



Haywood and Ed Lilly on the morning of Ed's departure for Kenya

On April 2nd the choir presented its first major concert: the “**Rutter Requiem**”.

1995 We hired our first part time **Youth minister, Frank McNutt**.



Under the leadership of **Andy Collins**, we had the most Westminster folks ever taking part in the annual **Crop Walk**, and Westminster won the **Silver Sneaker Award** for raising the **2nd largest amount of money** of all the more than **100 groups** who took part in the Walk.



Westminster's best Crop Walkers

The Session hired John Bush to do a **feasibility study** on whether or not we could hope to raise enough enthusiasm and money to **build a new Education building**. He concluded that with the proper amount of education and promotion, **we might hope to raise as much as \$1.3 M**. And so, on September 10th – Celebration Sunday – (as we enjoyed “100% Chance of Rain”) we kicked off a **\$1.3 M capital campaign** under the

leadership of Kay Wellemeyer. Seven weeks later she announced that we had **exceeded our ambitious goal by \$200,000.**

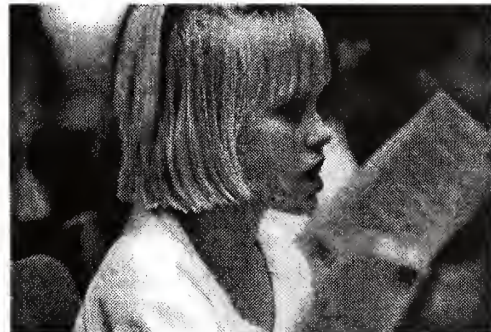
1996 An anonymous donor contributed **\$10,000** to establish the **Westminster Fund**, a permanent endowment-like fund, the proceeds of which may be applied to Durham **community ministries** which are supported by any Durham Presbyterian Church.

In February, **Haywood** took a **12 day trip to Israel.**

In April the **congregation approved the design of new education/youth fellowship space** by enlarging the Education Building. Initial **estimates exceeded \$2 M**. This would include upgrading the current building to code and running the driveway behind the cabin back up to Chapel Hill Road

In April **Graham Patterson announced his resignation** effective the end of August, 1996 with plans to move to Richmond where his wife, Claudia, had accepted a call to serve as Rector of the Church of the Holy Comforter (Episcopal). He was **honored on July 14th** at the time of his departure.

In August, a **\$2.1 M contract was signed** with C.T. Wilson Construction Company to **double the size of our Education Building**, along with other renovations. Completion of the total \$2.5 M project was expected by the **end of September, 1997.**



Children are our most important commodity at Westminster

Betty Berghaus, a candidate for the Ministry and a student at Duke Divinity School, was contracted to serve as our **Student Associate Pastor** for 1996-1998.

Hurricane Fran swept through Durham on **September 6th** leaving the church grounds with only a few large trees destroyed along with minor building damage. However, we were without power for nearly a week.

On **October 12-14th** we had our first **Spiritual Renewal Weekend** with **Chuck Campbell**, professor of Homiletics at Columbia Theological Seminary.

1997 Most of the year was consumed with **challenges/problems surrounding the building program**. All of the staff offices were moved into the Fellowship Hall from May to August. The bottom floor of the new building was completed on September 6th. The rest of the building was **completed September 22nd**.

A Pulpit Nominating Committee was elected to find our **second Associate Pastor** (Bill Bartholomay, Bruce Bollman, Gene Brannon, Nancye Bryan, Bonnie Derr, Catharine Hennessy, and Gail Weis). They focused on finding an associate with **special skills and gifts in youth and family ministries**.

In July, the congregation voted to call **Paul Ransford, Jr.** to become our **Associate Pastor**. Paul graduated from Union Theological seminary, and since 1982 had been Director of Presbytery's Camps and Conferences. He and his family were already members of our congregation. He was installed on Rally Day, **September 7, 1997**. The installation service was followed by a church picnic and presentation of the intergenerational musical "**Rescue in the Night**".



**Paul and Sally Ransford, Hans, Kristin,
Lee, Becca, Julie and Haley**



Pied Piper Paul and a few young friends – Sarah Wolf, Beezer Bigsby, Chris Muller

Katherine Achtemeier was the featured speaker for our second **Annual Spiritual Renewal Weekend, October 11-13.**

1998 On January 8th Haywood had bilateral total knee replacement surgery, and was on medical leave until February 8th during which time the rest of the staff competently led the church.

The congregation elected a **Pulpit Nominating Committee** to search for a **second Associate Pastor** with special gifts in pastoral care and counseling.

The Diaconate **sponsored a Burmese refugee family.** **Helen Harrison** and **Catharine Hennessey** headed up this ministry involving scores of our members.

The **Diaconate** voted to join the **Interfaith Hospitality Network.** We housed our **first four families** in August. Bill Starnes was the coordinator.

Charles Page, Dean of the **Jerusalem Center For Bible Studies**, led us in a fascinating and inspiring day considering the **Land of the Bible.**

Rally Day featured two performances of “**Exodus from Egypt County**”.

Tom Long led the **3rd Annual Spiritual Renewal Weekend.**

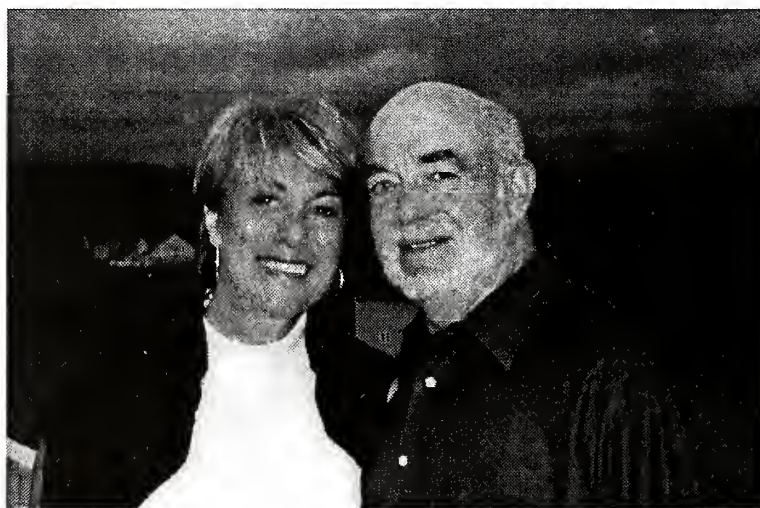
1999 **Barbara Fletcher** began working in our church office and became our

first **full time business manager and treasurer** on July 1st



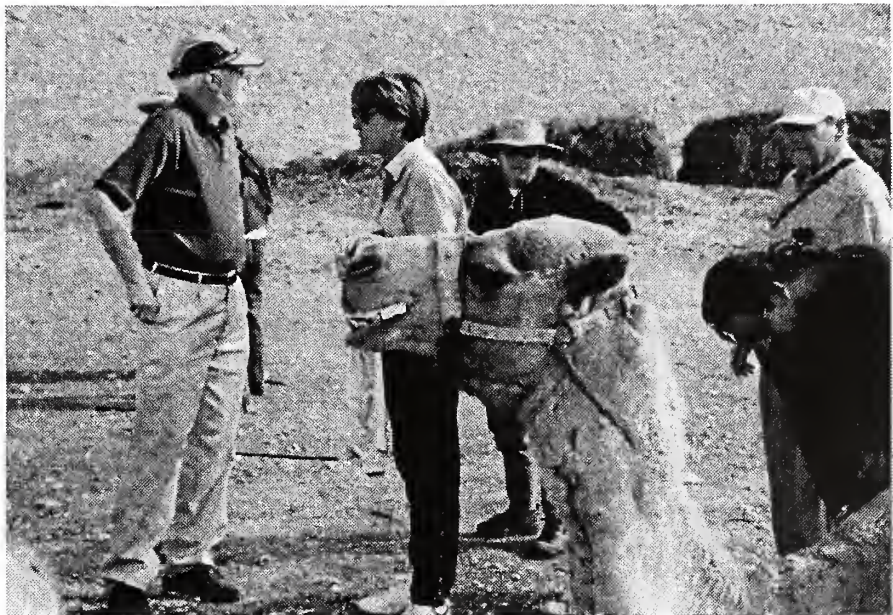
Barbara Fletcher

We celebrated Haywood and Mary's 25th Westminster anniversary, as **double gifts to our church family**, on January 30-31. This included two testimonial dinners, a special worship service (including two anthems and two hymns dedicated to and commissioned for their 25th) and an offering of **\$47,000** to establish "**The Holderness Fund**" for community service.



Mary and Haywood at Kate Davis' wedding

In March **Haywood and Mary** took **34 Westminster members** on a tour of **Israel and Jordan**. It was led by **Charles Page**.



Israel : Sam Bryan, Mary Holderness, Margaret and Ron Hawkins, guide

On August 29th The church voted to call a **second Associate Pastor** who would be in charge of **congregational care**. After a wide search, our own **Betty Berghaus** was called to this position and was ordained and installed on September 29th, 1999



Betty Berghaus

2000 Jerry Hopper, one of our members who used to live in Turkey, visited Adapazari immediately **after the Earthquake** and **led us in raising \$10,000** to buy tents and sleeping bags for homeless people there.

In September we did our first **“Blitz Build” Habitat House** which was completed in only two weeks.



Pauls mini-sermons

Two days after the flooding in Eastern North Carolina from **Hurricane Floyd**, the Session voted to call for a special offering to try to raise **\$25,000** to be used in the hardest hit Princeville/Tarboro area.

The **Diaconate** voted **flood relief to be our mission focus** for the next year, and we began sending 4-6 work teams a month down East. (We ended up raising **\$150,000** in gifts and pledges.)



Sunday School Lessons Are Important - Bill Hatch



Helen Tharrington

The Session approved an operating **budget of \$793,000** for 2000.

2001 Westminster continued sending work teams to Edgecombe County (most Thursdays and Saturdays). By February, tear-outs of the flooded

homes were completed and our volunteers joined hundreds of others from all over in beginning to rebuild those homes. **Most of our funds were used for building materials.**

Sue McCaughan and **Mary Todd Peters** announced their retirements effective in the Fall. A search committee chaired by **Richard Draffin** conducted a nation-wide search for a full time DCE to replace Sue, and our part time Director of Christian Education, Mary Todd.



Mary Todd Peters

Nancy Rozak was called to be our new Director of Christian Education and in **August** replaced **Sue McCaughan** as Director.



The excitement of Nancy Rozak, and our children

Will Willimon, Dean of the Chapel at Duke, led our **Spiritual Enrichment Weekend**.



Camp New Hope

A **technology committee** was formed to connect all of the church computers and to introduce DSL, high speed internet connections.

Westminster hosted the **Kiev Chorus and Orchestra** for the second time.



Some men of the church returning from serving at the Community Kitchen
 (back) Pete McWilliams, Mickey Henriquez, Pete Jones, John Knight, Dennis Cook, Doug Wellemeyer (front) Hugh Bailey, Bruce Bollman, Bud Cowdery, Bert Loro

Haywood was elected chairman of the **Durham County Department of Social Services Board**.

Work began to prepare for a **\$1.5 M capital campaign** entitled "**Called To Action**". The campaign would raise \$800,000 to retire our building debt, \$500,000 for facility enlargement, enhancement and maintenance, and \$200,000 for special mission initiatives

2001 The congregation **exceeded the \$1.5 M goal** for the **Called to Action Campaign**.

The **flood ministry project** in Edgecomb County was completed.

26 youths and adults went on a **Mexico Mission Trip**.

Charles Page taught and preached June 23-24th.

Haywood was elected chairman of the **Food Bank Board of N.C.**

Walter Brueggemann led our **Spiritual Enrichment Weekend**.

Mission emphasis for Deacons was **Housing**. **\$23,000** was raised at the Christmas Eve offering for **Habitat for Humanity**.

An **\$850,000 operating budget** was approved by the Session for **2002**.



Paul and a few of our Cub and Boy Scouts on Achievement Sunday

2002 Our **ministries, programs, experiences and memories** are part of

the rich fabric of Westminster, and, under the leadership and stimulus of **Haywood, Paul and Betty** the church and its members have been involved with over **25 outreach programs** touching people in need in the community and in far away places around the globe.

A **Global Ministries Committee** was formed, with **Richard Watson** the chair, with 17 active members.

The church now has involvement with over **50 inreach ministries** and programs that nurture our members.

Our church secretary, **Aimee Broom**, resigned and moved to New Mexico with her husband. **Kim Castelo** ably assumed the secretarial position and became a welcome mat overnight for Haywod and all who contact the church.

CTA facility money was spent on expanding and re-paving the parking lot and building a new storage shed.

Monica Rossman and **Paul Ransford** were given three month sabbaticals during the summer.

Bart Haynes led the congregation to give **\$20,000** for a special offering for a **Presbyterian School for Orphans** in Zambia.

The Diaconate voted to make the **Food Bank of North Carolina** its mission focus for September 2002-August 2003. **Dana Lang** heads up the task force for this.

The Session **appointed a committee** to produce and carry out a plan to create opportunities for the congregation to study, in a **Christian manner**, matters before the Presbyterian Church pertaining to **Human Sexuality and Faith**, and **church policy**.

The summer musical was “**Angels Aware**”.

Claudia and Richard Draffin were appointed to chair a committee to plan and carry out our **40th anniversary** celebration in September, 2003.

The Westminster annual **operating budget for 2002** was **\$850,000** and total **benevolences, \$184,000**.

In December **Haywood** spoke to the public gathering for the **\$1.8M** expansion of the **Durham Community Shelter** operated by **Urban Ministries** for which he has been a founding leader.



THE HERALD-SUN | KEVIN SEIFERT

The Rev. Haywood Holderness of Westminster Presbyterian Church gets the crowd excited about the new homeless shelter at Friday's ribbon cutting.

2003 February –Ten of our adult members including two of our ministers (Paul and Betty) made a ten day trip to Merida, Mexico to visit with the church there, to **literally carry bags of cement and cinder block** to help members build a home; and, take part in their worship and every day life.



Ordination of Elders – "Laying on of Hands"

Haywood joined nine other ministers and lay members under **Church World Service** on a **visit to Cuba** to learn more about their churches, schools, seminaries and farm life.

March 2nd **Fresher Maphiri**, lay leader for Presbyterian Churches throughout **Zambia, Africa**, spoke to both services about their **school for orphans of AIDS victims**, and for which this congregation raised \$20,000 under **Bart Haynes'** leadership in August, 2002.



Betty Berghaus, Fresher Maphiri, Bart Haynes

In **June, 17** of our young people along with **Paul Ransford, Walter Beckwith, and Chick Palermo** returned on a mission to **Merida and Batal, Mexico** and visited with the young people in the church there. They helped cement the floor and roof of the minister's home, and acted as a construction gang for a week.

Also in June, 17 of our young people attended the annual **Youth Conference** in **Montreat**, with **Paul Ransford's** participation and support.

Haywood and Mary Holderness took a well deserved three month sabbatical vacation during the months of **June, July and August** that included an Alaska trip.

A **40th year Anniversary Celebration** is planned for **September 14th** with **Chuck Campbell** invited to be our guest preacher. Invitations have been extended to all of our church members throughout the world, and, we will be honoring our first pastor, **Charles Williams**.

